Shortage of Coins

†166. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge gap between the demand and supply of coins in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to import coins keeping in view the acute shortage of coins in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to cast coins in the country itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Cases pending in DRTs

†167. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with different DRTs alongwith the total amount involved;

(b) the number of tribunals functioning at present and whether Government will increase their numbers in view of the number of pending cases; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As per information furnished by Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) there are 31558 cases pending with various DRTs involving an amount of Rs. 1,06,130 crores as on 31.3.2003.

(b) and (c) There are 29 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) currently functioning in various parts of the country.The number of cases decided by the DRTs is showing steady improvement. The number of cases disposed off far exceeded the number of cases freshly registered in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

DRTs during the year 2002-03. There is, therefore, no proposal to establish more DRTs at this stage.

Payback of Excise Refund by Tobacco Companies

168. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tobacco companies are required to pay back the excise refund received by them as per past policy which has been revised retrospectively;

(b) if so, the company-wise details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for policy revision with retrospective effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The notifications of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance, (Department of Revenue) Nos. G.S.R. 508(E), dated 8th July, 1999 and G.S.R. 509(E), dated 8th July, 1999 providing physical incentives by way of excise duty refund on specified products manufactured in the North-Eastern Region have been amended retrospectively *vide* Section 154 of the Finance Act, 2003 (No. 32 of 2003). As a consequence of these amendments, recovery is to be made of the excise refund paid to the manufacturers. The company-wise details of the amount to be recovered are given in the enclosed Statement (see below). The reason for giving retrospective effect to the above mentioned notification is to prevent the reported mis-use of the benefit.

Statement

Company-wise details of the amount of excise refund to be recovered

SI. No.	Name of the Company	Amount (Rs. In lakhs)
1	2	3
1.2.	M/s New Tobacco Co. (P) Ltd. M/s	276.91
3.4.	Sri Agasthya Industries M/s	848.63
5.	Sunflag Industries (P) Ltd. M/s	1310.36
	Frontier Multi Products M/s R.C.	1146.50
	Tobacco (P) Ltd.	1408.89